



Zionite *Newsletter*

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Message from the Pastor

Hello Church!

To say there is a lot going on in church would be an understatement! We're a busy community of faith here at Zion, and it makes me so happy! (I'll try to calm down with the exclamation points now...)

Here is some of what is going on here at church:

1. Office renovations. If you didn't hear, shortly before our roof was replaced, there was flooding in the offices. This led to some much needed renovations. Peek your head in the offices as you walk by them on Sunday and you'll see the progress. It also explains why my desk is currently in the fellowship hall. Thank you to our Trustees for this much needed renovation!
2. New members!!! I love when people find their way to this church. The main theme that came up at our New Member Meeting was that people were looking for a church that is inclusive. I love that this Church is both Christ-centered and inclusive, and that our mission is evident to those who walk through the doors or join us online. I know I can speak on behalf of the whole church when I say, "Welcome New Members!" On October 31st we will officially welcome the new members into this Congregation.
3. Committee/Ministry Team revival. Covid took a hit on our Committees and Ministry Teams. So on Tuesday, October 12th, at 7pm, we're having our first Committee Night. If anyone is a part of a committee or looking to be a part of one, this is the night to attend! We will be meeting in-person this month. The Committee Night is only an hour long, and at 8pm Consistory will gather to discuss what happened at each of the Committee meetings.
4. Slowly getting back to normal. Our 9am service attendance is increasing, which is part of why Consistory wanted to move back to 2 services. And our 11am service attendance is a little low, but that's okay! In fact, it's great! There is plenty of room to spread out and the choir is providing amazing music! If you've been wary about attending church in-person, the second service has a lighter attendance and is probably the safest option. For those who worship with us online, you can continue to do so. Streaming of our services will continue.
5. New ministry opportunities are coming. Right now we have a small team preparing to meet with the WNYACIC and Journey's End Refugee Services to participate in the Home Again+ program with other WNY churches so that we can help a family coming into Buffalo from Afghanistan. As a sister of a soldier who was in Army intelligence in Afghanistan, I believe it's important for us to help the refugees and allies coming from Afghanistan. If you feel the same, there will soon be ways to help! Our ministry team will let us know what ways we can help in the near future.

I'm sure there is more that I should update you on, but it looks like I'm almost out of room. But I will tell you that it's amazing to serve a church that is passionate about following Jesus and welcoming all. I'm genuinely happy to be your pastor and I'm so glad to see many of you in church again!

In Christ, Pastor Elizabeth

Church Events

- **Bible Study ► Monday and Tuesday at 1pm on Facebook Live**
- **Sunday School ► Sundays in Kuck Hall at 9am**
- **Nursery ► Open and staffed on Sundays at 9am**
- **Food Pantry ► Open Every Monday from 11am to 1pm**
- **October 1st, 7-10pm ► Youth Group**
- **October 2nd, 10am ► Crop Walk at Kenilworth UCC**
- **October 12th, 7pm ► Consistory and Committee Night**
- **October 15-17 ► Western Area Youth (WAY) Halloween Happening retreat at Dunkirk Camp**
- **October 16 ► Women's Fellowship 11am at Zion UCC**
- **October 18th, 6pm ► Trustees**
- **October 30th ► Drive Through Community Dinner (last Saturday of every month) from 5pm to 6pm or until food runs out.**
- **October 31st ► New Member Sunday!**
- **AA ► Wednesdays at 8pm, Saturdays at 10am**

Sunday Worship Schedule
9am Contemporary Worship
9am Sunday School
10am Coffee Hour
11am Traditional Worship

Welcome New Members!

On October 31st we'll be welcoming the following new members to the church! Take a moment to learn their names and get to know them when you see them!

Rick Friend

Sandy Marcussen

Kalee Mielke

Dave Dombrowski

Laurie Dombrowski

JoAnn Teal

Steve Teal

Sara Roberts and sons

Nathan and Alex Roberts

Kristin Miller

Allen Miller

and son James Miller

Dawn Goodrow Mack

Cheryl Lindstrom

Kelly Deschamps & family

Welcome home, friends!

If anyone else would like to join with this new member class on October 31st, please let Pastor Elizabeth know.

Church Messages From Members

If you have a message you would like to include in the next Zionite, please email the pastor.

Dear Zion family,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the many cards I have received for my 90th birthday. These cards, all filled with warm and loving messages, came not only from those who actually know me, but also those who have never met me—I find that amazing!! I am very grateful for my loving Zion family, and our loving, caring Pastor Elizabeth, who inspires us all to be our very best selves.

Sincerely, Margaret Goerss

Church Bios →

Would you like to submit a church bio to be included in the Zionite? If so, email it to Pastor Elizabeth.

If you are involved in any committees, boards, ministry teams, Sunday School, choir/praise band, or more: email your bio to the pastor and we'll include it in an upcoming newsletter.

It's a great way to learn more about our members!

Getting to Know You

Debbie Grine

Hi! I'm Debbie Grine. I have been attending Zion since I was about 4 years old. I was Confirmed at Zion and married my husband Peter at Zion. Brianna (pictured below with me) is my daughter and Doug King is my father. I have recently retired from teaching in the Buffalo Public Schools after 35 years and we live in the Allentown Neighborhood in Buffalo. I like to be involved and here at Zion I have been teaching Sunday School to grades 3 and 4 for 36 years. I am also the Chairperson of the PPRC (Pastoral Parish Relations Committee) and the Administration Committee. This year I have joined the Personnel Committee for the NY Conference and co-chaired Zion's team for the CROP walk. I am so thankful to be a member of our wonderful, dynamic, growing church!



PARENTS!

Take a moment to register for Sunday School so our teachers have all of the up-to-date information on the students.

Thank you!

<https://www.zionuccton.com/sunday-school/>

Viewing this newsletter online?

If so, click [HERE](#) to view the Western NY Area Churches in Covenant newsletter called the Vineyard.

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' - Mark 10:14

Women's Fellowship

Join the Women's Fellowship

Their next meeting is:

October 16th

11:00am

At Zion UCC

Birthday Buddies October List

(see next page for information about the Birthday Buddies. This fundraiser is supported by our Women's Fellowship)

Gift Cards to:

- ♦ Target
- ♦ TJ Maxx
- ♦ Walmart
- ♦ Burlington Coat Factory
- ♦ Wegmans
- ♦ Tops
- ♦ The Dollar Store
- ♦ Michaels
- ♦ CVS

Birthday Buddies October List

Sports Items:

- ♦ Jump Ropes
- ♦ Hula Hoops
- ♦ Footballs
- ♦ Basketballs
- ♦ Soccer Balls
- ♦ Badminton Sets
- ♦ Bowling Sets
- ♦ Chalk
- ♦ Bubbles
- ♦ Kick Balls
- ♦ Playground Balls
- ♦ Cornhole—Bean Bags
- ♦ Ring Toss Game
- ♦ Baseball Bats and Balls
- ♦ Bocce Ball
- ♦ Velcro Ball Catch

Our Future

Birthday Buddies would like to reach as many children in Western New York that are in need. We plan to do this in various ways. Presently we are researching Boys and Girls Clubs to see if there is a need for the children they serve. Many school social workers have children who may not be homeless but can not celebrate their birthdays because their families cannot afford it. Birthday Buddies could provide Birthday Boxes to the school so the child could celebrate at school and receive a special gift. For older children the boxes would contain a cake mix, frosting, candles, some party supplies and a special gift. This way the children could celebrate at home. These are some ways we can reach children through out Western New York.



Who We Are

Birthday Buddies of Western New York, Inc. consists of a diverse group of volunteers who want to help fulfill the wishes of children living in a homeless shelter by gifting them a birthday celebration.

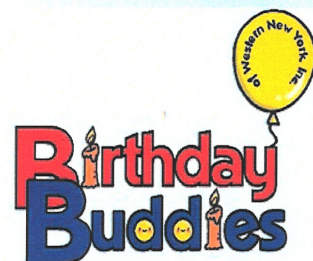
Contact Information

716-691-4548

85 Sweetwood Drive
Amherst, NY 14228

birthdaybuddies716@gmail.com

Birthdaybuddiesofwny.org



Mission Statement

To bring happiness and joy to homeless children through the gift of a birthday celebration.

What We Do

We provide a complete birthday party celebration once a month with the following:

- Themed decorations
- Specialized cake(s)
- Gifts for the celebrant(s)
- Age appropriate entertainment
- Games and crafts
- Treat bags for all attendees
- Personalized photos

Birthday in A Box

We provide a complete birthday party celebration in a box that is delivered once a month with the following:

- Party goods-plates, cups, napkins, hats, candles, blowers, balloons & decorations
- Cupcakes, drinks, & candy
- Gifts for the celebrant— an outfit, pajamas, books, a stuffed animal, a game, a craft & 1 or 2 of their wishes.



Impact

Birthday Buddies was established in August 2019. Since that time we have seen the impact this has on the children and families at Gerard Place and Carolyn's House. We have celebrated 74 children's birthdays. The smiles and joy that we saw let us know we are making a difference. Children are now anticipating their birthdays, something that would not be happening without us.



"To the Wonderful Ladies at Birthday Buddies,
Thank you for the Best 1st Birthday Party you threw my daughter last month! She loves everything and plays every day with them. She might not remember it, but I will forever. Thank you once again"

-Julie

Why We Are

In 2020 the Homeless Alliance of Western New York found that there were 6,375 people without homes. Of that number many were single parents with children.

The impact of homelessness on a child can be traumatic. Birthday Buddies believes a birthday party can bring a sense of stability and normalcy into a family's environment. Since the pandemic Birthday Buddies has continued to serve the children of Western New York by providing a Birthday in A Box. The efforts of Birthday Buddies of Western New York, Inc. say to the child, we care about you as part of our community and you are truly special.

Committee Night!

On October 12th at 7pm we are having a COMMITTEE NIGHT!

If you are on a committee, please join us (in-person) to meet with your Committee and/or Ministry Team.

Committees and/or Ministry Teams will meet for an hour before Consistory. Then the committee liaisons will share what is going on with that committee with the Consistory at 8pm.

ALSO if you're not on a Committee but are interested in joining a Committee or Ministry Team, come on October 12th to check it out!

Below are a list of our Committees and Ministry Teams:

- ♦ Administration
 - ♦ PPRC (Pastoral Parish Relations Committee)
 - ♦ Christian Education & Christian Ed Missions
 - ♦ Coffee Hour & Community Dinners (Church Life)
- ♦ Memorials
 - ♦ Community Outreach (new committee)
 - ♦ Health Ministry Team
 - ♦ Environmental Ministry Team
 - ♦ Pastoral Care Ministry Team
 - ♦ Food Pantry Ministry Team
 - ♦ New Member Ministry Team (new team)



Contact our Volunteer Manager at volunteer@feedmorewny.org or at (716) 822-2005 ext. 3077 to learn more about our Adopt-A-Route program or to get started today! Click the link below for more information.

www.feedmorewny.org/get-involved/volunteer/

Meals on Wheels (FeedMoreWNY) is in need of more volunteers!

Do you have one day free when you might be able to help drive around and deliver meals to seniors? If so, contact FeedMoreWNY or talk to our church members who are involved (Pat Mudd, Doug King, and Joyce Dolce).

This is a great volunteer opportunity for those who want to provide meals and a friendly face to seniors in our community.

Let's Celebrate!

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to these church members!

First Name	Last Name	Birth Month	Birth Day	Family Name	Anniversary
Sarah	Beatty	October	6	Cecil & Karen Ammerman	10/02/1982
Wendy	Bollman	October	25	Richard Baker	10/19/1985
Sallie	Browning	October	15	George & Mary Drescher	10/06/2006
Sandy	Cicatello	October	24	Charlotte & Rick Gilmer	10/20/2012
Deborah	Coles	October	13	Deborah & Peter Grine	10/10/1998
Maria	Colosimo	October	8	Jeremy & Cara Hachten	10/20/2018
Zoey	Cousins	October	7	Herbert Hachten III & Stacey Hachten	10/12/2013
Fred	Cruz	October	4	Daniel & AnnMarie Kenny	10/07/2006
William	Daugherty	October	27	Melanie & Alan Knowles	10/11/2019
Cynthia	DelValle	October	13	Michael & Celeste Thorp	10/07/1978
Stacy	Doll	October	25	Herbert & Florence Wahl	10/28/1950
Robert	Faulks	October	4	Mark & Leigh Wingert	10/11/2008
Christine	Greiner	October	16		
	Handley-				
Sarah	Cousins	October	1		
Nicholas	Heary	October	12		
Susan	House	October	19		
Adam	Janiszewski	October	2		
Emily	Laufer	October	23		
Trevor	Louth	October	21		
Wendy	McCarthy	October	8		
Barbara (Ed)	Miller	October	10		
Amanda	Missert	October	7		
Lola	Norris	October	1		
Joseph	Peacock	October	1		
Katie	Peacock	October	2		
Mary	Porter	October	14		
Pamela	Robinson	October	29		
Valerie	Rosehart	October	31		
Lois	Theisz	October	11		
Ben	Thurston	October	18		
Erin	Thurston	October	7		
Peyton	Walk	October	9		
Jason	Whalen	October	14		
Leigh	Wingert	October	19		
Alfred	Woodruff	October	4		
Barbara	Zeiger	October	7		
Paula	Zientek	October	28		

Lectors Needed!

Sign up to lector for Sunday
services and sign up to help
with coffee hour with this

link:

<http://bit.ly/zionlector>

Thank you!

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes via Zoom ® 9-7-2021

Call to Order: Tim Schlegel called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Tim Schlegel, Troy Hengst, Pastor Elizabeth, Barb Miller, Trustee: Ted Camp, Elena Camp, Sarah Handley-Cousins, Edie Bauer.

Call or Order at 7:06 pm. (Lacking voting body)

Devotion and Lord's Prayer: Pastor led us in the devotion and Lord's prayer.

Community Building

COVID Review Policy

- Will keep 2 (two) services at 9:00 am and 11:00am with coffee hour starting at the conclusion of the first service.
- Coffee hour team will be needed. Pastor will create a sign-up sheet to request volunteers each week. Volunteers will serve children that come up for a snack or drink.
- Will further review the coffee hour with regards to our COVID policy as the need arises and/or with increases in COVID/Variant cases in the community.

Tim Schlegel acknowledges voting body achieved at 7:15 pm.

- **Approval of Consistory Meeting Minutes:** No minutes were submitted. Will have to add and approve at the next meeting.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Barb and seconded by Troy to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion was passed. Ron requested to get started on the next budget and have it submitted by November.
- **Trustee's Report:** Remediation of office, asbestos testing resulted in NO asbestos. Parking lot - working on RFP. Dead tree on Parker Street side of the church - looking to have removed. Old shed in back has been taken down. Boiler inspection requested by insurance carrier went well, all okay.
- **Pastor's Report**
 1. Rally day is 9/12/21. One service at 10:00 am, outside service. Requesting volunteers to help set-up, cook/prepare lunch, tear down/clean-up.
 2. New member meeting changed to 9/28 at 6:00 pm. Pastor noted about 15 new members are in waiting to join the church.
 3. New member ministry team. Possibly 3-4 per team to help welcome new members and to also keep in contact with new members.
 4. Pastor sent out a thank you to the Trustees for their hard work on the office renovations.

- **Committee Discussion**

Reimagine / Ministry Teams

It was discussed on creating various ministry teams in areas of interest/need, having a liaison of each team report to the Consistory, who will share a report during the first segment of the meeting. The first segment would be reserved for ministry team reporting then continue into the regular meeting (second segment). It is possible that not all ministry teams would meet on a regular or more frequent basis, and that it may report only a few times during the year.

Committee Reports:

- Administration – Charlotte signed new contract for 6 work hours.
- Christian Education & Missions – Had a successful VBS and now ready for a new Sunday School year with all of our teachers returning.
- Church Life and Community Dinners – Troy reported no community dinner for August and that the next dinner is September 25.
- Memorials – None
- Outreach – None
- PPRC – None
- Health Ministry – None
- Environmental Ministry – Barb reported attending a native tree preservation workshop, learning/looking around at trees and other shrubs/plants to include in the green space/future project next to our parking lot.

It was brought to Pastor's attention that there is a need to include in our committee reports, Food Pantry. This is a vital area of the church that should be reported on each month.

Old Business

- Troy recapped the Pastoral Care Training from July. The training went well! There were 12 attendees from 5 different WNY Area Churches. Seven attendees were from Zion. Roll out with ministry teams will be announced soon.

New Business

None

A motion to adjourn was made by Troy and seconded by Barb.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next meeting: In-Person meeting on October 12 at 7:00 pm.

Closing prayer: In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen.